

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7660

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: SUHARTO IS SWORN IN

REF: A. JAKARTA 3731; B. JAKARTA 3608

1. SUMMARY. SUHARTO WAS REINSTALLED AS PRESIDENT THIS MORNING AND MALIK WILL BE SWORN IN AS VICE PRESIDENT LATER THIS EVEING. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO GIVE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY TO THE ALLEGED BOMB PLOT IN JAKARTA, ALTERNATELY ALLEGING MOSLEM OR CHINESE COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT. WE ARE GETTING CONFLICTING SIGNALS ON HOW THE GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE SECURITY SITUATION AND HOW IT WILL REACT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD AT THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY (MPR) MARCH 23, AND BROADCAST NATIONALLY ON TV AND RADIO, PRESIDENT SUHARTO TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE TO BEGIN HIS NEW TERM AND DELIVERED A SHORT INAUGURAL ADDRESS. SPEAK-
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ING FOR JUST TEN MINUTES, BE PROMISED TO CARRY OUT THE GUIDELINES FOR STATE POLICY (GBHN) AND ALL OTHER RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE MPR AND ASKED FOR THE HELP OF ALL INDONESIANS IN THIS TASK. THE SPEECH CONTAINED NO REFERENCES TO RECENT POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS OR SECURITY DISTURBANCES.

3. MPR CHAIRMAN ADAM MALIK WAS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT AT

A SUBSEQUENT SESSION OF THE MPR AND WILL BE SWORN IN THIS EVENING. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THAT CEREMONY THE MPR WILL BE ADJOURNED SINE DIE.

4. OUTSIDE THE MPR, A TOTAL OF 30 SUSPECTS HAVE NOW BEEN ARSTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED BOMB PLOT TARGETTED ON PUBLIC PLACES IN JAKARTA. THE GOVERNMENT IS USING THE OCCASION OF THE ARRESTS TO REITERATE A TOUGH LINE AGAINST POTENTIAL TERRORISTS. JAKARTA (KODAM V) MILITARY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. NORMAN SASONO ON MARCH 21 AGAIN ORDERED SECURITY TROOPS TO "SHOOT ON THE SPOT" ANYONE COMMITTING "ACTS OF TERROR". HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT "SPECIAL SHARPSHOOTER SQUADS" HAVE BEEN FORMED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO TERRORIST THREATS. KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADM. SUDOMO MADE AN INSPECTION TOUR OF SECURITY TROOPS DEPLOYED AT VARIOUS STRATEGIC LOCATIONS IN TH CITY, REITERATING SASONO'S "SHOOT ON THE SPOT" ORDER. NOTING THAT MANY OF THE TROOPS WERE YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED, SUDOMO SAID HE WANTED TO TALK TO THEM AND BE SURE THEY DID NOT "MISUNDERSTAND THE TASK WHICH THEY FACE CONFRONTING TERROR".

5. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPERS ARE, WITH INCREASING OPENNESS, ALLEGING FANATIC MOSLEM INVOLVEMENT IN TH BOMB PLOT. THE NEW ARMED FORCES-CONNECTED DAILY 45, FOR EXAMPLE, EDITORIALIZED ON MARCH 22 THAT THE PLOT "WAS CONDUCTED BY A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE MOSLEM YOUTH MOVEMENT (GPI).
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WE CONSIDER THIS DISTURBING, BECAUSE FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME NOW 'ISLAM' IS BEING USED TO SHIELD ACTIVITIES AIMED AT SPLITTING THE NATION". A KODAM V SPOKESMAN AND THE QUASI-OFFICIAL ARMED FORCES PAPER ANGKATAN BERSENJATA, HOWEVER, TOOK A DIFFERENT TACK, ALLEGING POSSIBLE MEDDLING BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC). THE KODAM V SPOKESMAN CITED A RADIO PEKING BROADCAST OF MARCH 17, WHICH PURPORTEDLY PRAISED THE INDONESIAN STUDENT DISSIDENT MOVEMENT, AS POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF CHINESE COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT. SASONO IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR ON TELEVISION THIS EVENING TO PROVIDE TO THE PUBLIC A FULL EXPLANATION F THE BOMB PLOT.

6. WITH TROOPS POSTED ALL OVER JAKARTA--ESPECIALLY TODAY, PROTECING THE MOTORCADE ROUTES OF DIGNITARIES HEADING TO AND FROM THE MPR FOR SUHARTO'S INSTALLATION-THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORTED REPETITION OF THE SMALL SCALE FIREBOMBING INCIDENTS REPORTED IN REFERENCE B. THE EVENING OF MARCH 20 THERE WAS A FIRE OF SUSPICIOUS ORIGIN WHICH DESTROYED 45 SHACKS IN CENTRAL JAKART WHERE PROSTITUTES PLY THEIR TRADE. IN PART, PERHAPS, BECAUSE THE BOMBERS WERE ALLEGEDLY TARGETTING SUCH DENS OF INIQUITY, SECURITY OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED THE FIRE MAY HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY SET.

7. COMMENT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW THE GOVERNMENT REALLY VIEWS AND WILL RESPOND TO THE MPR AND TO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING IT. YESTERDAY CSIS STAFFER AND MPR MEMBER LIM BIAN KIE CONTACTED THE EMBASSY ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE (BUT PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A POST-MPR CRACKDOWN ON MOSLEMS) TO REPORT THAT FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH MOSLEMS IN MPR HAD NOT BEEN AS BAD AS GOVERNMENT EXPECTED, THAT LAST PP WORDS FROM THE FLOOR HAD BEEN CONCILIATORY IN TONE AND THAT COMMUNICATIONS WITH MOSLEMS HAD BEEN PARTIALLY RESTORED. WHILE NOT FLATLY RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT A FEW MOSLEMS COULD BE ARRESTED, HE FELT SOFTENED PPP STANCE WOULD DISCOURAGE POTENTIAL TERRORISTS AND STRONGLY INDICATED THAT NO

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LARGE-SCALE ARRESTS ARE IN THE OFFING. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER SOURCES SUGGEST THAT SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE TAKING THE BOMB PLOT VERY SERIOUSLY AND MAY BE CONTEMPLATING EXTENSION OR EVEN TIGHTENING OF CURRENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. THE STRONG PUBLIC COMMENTS OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS SUPPORT THAT POSSIBILITY. SASONO'S TELEVISED DISCUSSION OF THE BOMB PLOT TONIGHT MAY GIVE SOME ADDITIONAL CLUES ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE.

MASTERS

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